

Indiana Dunes State Park

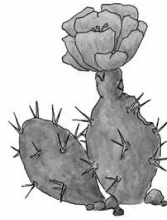
1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

(219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey



Prickly Pear Cactus



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Katy Kindig

July Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. However, children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday, July 1

10am Dunes on Fire! There's a firework show tonight, but join us for some fire this morning! Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for a look at prescribed fire in the dunes. Afterwards, we'll start our own fire if weather allows! Great family fun! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. DG

3pm Nature Center Road Show! Watch for the naturalists near the Beach Pavilion. Explore nature and make your own craft. Take a break from the beach and join us! BB, KK

9pm FIREWORKS! Gather on the beach for an evening of Independence Day fireworks! Parking will likely be very limited, so be prepared to arrive early for a good seat. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to lie on, and a flashlight for the walk back to the car. Campers advised to walk from the campgrounds, as traffic will no doubt be congested.



Thursday, July 2

10am Sands of the World. Explore sands from around the world with Dale this morning. We'll have the microscopes out for a close up look. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for this fun program.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. DG

3pm Public Enemies of the Dunes! Check out the not so welcome Great Lakes invaders that have altered the waters just off shore during this 30 minute program in the Nature Center. Join us! DG

Friday, July 3

10am Dunes Creek Walk. Meet at the Pavilion for a 45 minute walk, as we explore the restored Dunes Creek restoration project. We'll be back before the beach opens. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. DG

3pm Tragedy Beneath the Waves! What stories haunt the shores of Lake Michigan? Come to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fascinating look at the shipwrecks that lie just off the swimming beach. Afterwards, an optional car pool to the beach will be offered to see where the ships lie! Join us! BB

8:30pm Patriots in the Dunes. Join the Naturalist at the Campground Gate for a special evening tour into the dune woodlands. We'll be exploring the special history that has occurred on this park's land. Kids under 12 must have a parent. We'll be out for about an hour. BB

Saturday, July 4

Happy 4th of July!!!

10am To the Beaver Lodge and Back! Meet the naturalist for a 45 minute easy stroll as we take you to the mammoth beaver lodge at the dunes! Check out what the beavers are up to this fine day! Meet at the Nature Center. KK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. KK

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist on the beach this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! DG

6:30pm Campground Crafts! Send the kids over after a day at the beach for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! BB

Sunday, July 5

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations. Visit the Nature Center this morning for a fun look at the science of bird banding. We'll have many birds in the hand and up close for all to see. Check us out on the Nature Center front deck. Great family fun before hitting the beach! BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. BB

3pm Critter Feeding Time! Scoot on over to the Nature Center Auditorium for some critter feeding fun! Learn what some of the Nature Center animals eat and maybe even get to feed some yourself! Great family fun! KK

Monday, July 6

10am Wetland Discovery. Enjoy a morning discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center. KK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. KK

3pm Postcards From the Dunes. Preserve your visit to the dunes by creating your own special postcard. Join us in the Nature Center Auditorium. Great family fun! KK



Tuesday, July 7

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. DG

3pm Reptile Review! Join the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the reptiles of the Indiana Dunes! Great program, especially if you are uncomfortable around these reptiles. Join us! KK

Wednesday, July 8

10am A Hike in Time. Join the Naturalist at the Campground Gate for an hour stroll to discover the early history of the land now called the Indiana Dunes State Park. Great hike for the history buffs. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. BB

4pm Huckleberries on the High Dunes! Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Gate (by site 113) for a moderate hike into the high dunes in search of ripening huckleberries and blueberries. Bring your appetite! DG

Thursday, July 9

10am Tour De Dunes. Experience the park by bike this morning. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Wilson Shelter for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. DG

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist near the beach pavilion with some cool critters of the dunes. BB

Friday, July 10

10am Nature Lore and Tall Tales. Bring your imagination this morning to the Nature Center Front Deck for some stories for the young and old. Learn some of the tall tales of the dunes before you hit the beach. Bring the kids! BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. KK

4pm Rattlesnake Ramble. Meet David outside the Nature Center for a short, 45-minute stroll in search of the snakes that call our wetland habitat home. We'll even talk about our only endangered rattlesnake in the dunes. Join us! DG

8pm Twilight Time! Twilight is a special time of day. Meet the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for an easy 45 minute stroll into the dune woodlands in search of the animals that are beginning to awaken! Bring flashlights for the walk back. Children under 12, please bring a parent. Join us! KK

Saturday, July 11

Indiana Dunes Sand Sculpture Contest

Join the Friends of the Dunes for this special 12th annual event. Enter to win or just watch for fun!

9:00-10:00am Registration at the Pavilion.

Sign up in one of two categories to be judged: Kids ages 15 and under and Family 6-8 people or less.

9:00-11:30am Sand Sculpting. Sculptures must be made from all natural materials found on the beach. Any other materials need park staff approval to be eligible for prizes.

11:30-12:00pm Judging. Judging based on originality, use of a theme, creativity, and complexity. Visitors welcome to vote for their favorite in the "People's Choice Award."

12:30pm Awards Ceremony. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes for both the kids and family categories.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. DG

4pm Sand Art! Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for some sand art fun. Explore sand from around the world, and make your own sand art craft to take home! Great fun for the kids! KK

Sunday, July 12

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

9:30am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

10am A Box Turtle Brunch. No, we're not eating box turtles today! But, you can help us in the weekly feedings of our turtles, snakes, and frogs! Join us before you head to the beach! KK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See, Wednesday, July 1, for more details. KK

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist near the beach pavilion with some cool critters of the dunes. BB

Monday, July 13

10am Geocaching Jaunt. It's the scavenger hunt with a high tech twist! Meet at the Campground Gate and learn to use a GPS unit, and find your own geocache! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. KK

Tuesday, July 14

10am Indiana Dunes' Rocks! Meet at the Nature Center and check out the forces that built The Dunes. It should be some real fossil fun!

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. KK

Wednesday, July 15

10am Wetland Discovery. Enjoy a morning discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center. KK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. KK

4pm Huckleberries on the High Dunes! Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Gate (by site 113) for a moderate hike into the high dunes in search of ripening huckleberries and blueberries. Bring your appetite! DG

Thursday, July 16

10am Weather Wise. Meet volunteer Dale for an interesting look at the weather in the dunes. Lake Michigan affects us year-round. Come find out how in this short 30 minute program at the Nature Center.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. KK

3pm Snakes Alive! Slither into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the snakes of Indiana Dunes. It's a great program, especially if you are uncomfortable around these reptiles. Join us! KK

Friday, July 17

10am Mt. Tom Bound! Join us at the Nature Center for an hour walk to Mt. Tom, our highest dune. We'll explore it's creation on this hour hike. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. DG

3pm A Concrete Contradiction. Meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a different hike of sorts. We'll be exploring the new West Parking Lot and how pervious concrete is absorbing the rain that falls. Learn the green way this afternoon! DG



Saturday, July 18

10am Lion Safari! We have lions in these hills... ant lions! Meet outside the Nature Center as we head off on an ant lion safari, in search of these unique dune critters. Total time about one hour. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. DG

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist on the beach. What surprises might they have today? DG

7:30pm Nature Movie Night! Grab the popcorn (and marshmallows!) and join us for an evening of nature movies at the Campground Shelter (by site 113). We'll be showing a nature movie on the big screen for kids of all ages. For specifics, ask at the Nature Center that day. Bring the kids! BB

Sunday, July 19

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations. Bring the family over for a close-up look at the birds of Indiana Dunes. We'll be "blinging" our birds with the help of special nets and traps. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. BB

3pm Critter Feeding Time. Join us for our weekly feeding of the Nature Center critters. Watch them eat, and maybe help us feed them. Bring your appetite and join us! DG

Monday, July 20

9:30am Paradise Valley- a car pool tour! Meet the Interpreter at the Nature Center parking lot. From there we'll car pool to Kemil beach (Nat. Lakeshore) and hike back into the park to visit a special area called Paradise Valley. Total time approximately 1 ½ -2 hours. Join us! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. DG

3pm Scatology... is the study of what!? Gather in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at what nature leaves behind! Prizes for those that know their poop! BB

Tuesday, July 21

10am Dune Geology. Learn how the dunes were formed this morning with volunteer Dale. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. Join us!

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. DG

3pm Swamp Safari. Explore the swamp this afternoon with Katy! We'll meet at the Nature Center and bring our dip nets to explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Bring the kids! KK

Wednesday, July 22

10am A Dog Day Hike. Meet at the Campground Gate for a morning stroll with your pooch. Bring your dog (on a leash of course) and join us for an hour stroll through the dune woodlands. KK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. KK

3pm Tour De Dunes. Experience the park by bike this afternoon. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Wilson Shelter for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way. DG

Thursday, July 23

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. DG

8pm Things that Go Bump in the Night! You do... on this creature of the night hike! Grab a friend to hold on to, and join us at the Campground Gate for a special evening stroll exploring the animals of the dunes and the special adaptations needed to survive in a world of darkness. Children under 12, please bring a parent. We'll be out for about an hour. KK

Friday, July 24

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. KK

3pm Scatology! Come check out the tips on turds, and facts on feces, as we explore what animals leave behind. We'll be playing a game with prizes for the kids! Join us for some great, stinky fun! BB

Saturday, July 25

10am Another Dam Hike! Meet the naturalist for a 45 minute easy stroll looking at the dam builders of Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Nature Center. KK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. KK

3pm Everybody Loves Turtles! Come check out the Indiana Dunes turtles. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at our native turtles. KK

Sunday, July 26

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 13, for more details. BB

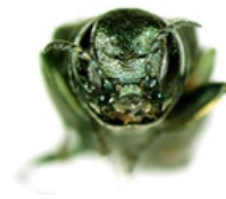
1pm Nature Crafts on the Beach! Visit us by the Beach Pavilion this afternoon and make your own beach craft to take home. Take a break from the beach and join us! KK

Firewood and the Emerald Ash Borer At Indiana Dunes.

If you plan to camp at Indiana Dunes this season, please help us control the spread of the emerald ash borer. You are the best weapon we have against this exotic beetle that has already killed 8-10 million ash trees all over the Midwest.

Why Should I Care about the Emerald Ash Borer?

- Ash trees make up about 6% of Indiana forests. There are an estimated 147 million ash trees in rural forests in the state.
- Ash is a valuable wood for making baseball bats and tool handles. The estimated potential impact of EAB is a loss of between 0.5% - 2% of the total leaf area and an economic loss of between \$20-60 billion.
- In many campgrounds, ash trees provide valuable shade on hot summer days. For example, at Salamonie Lake in northern Indiana, ash trees provide about 30% of the tree cover in the modern campground.



What Can I Do to Help?

- **Don't move firewood.** If you live in a county in Indiana that has an emerald ash borer quarantine, you cannot bring firewood from that county to any Indiana state park, reservoir, or state forest.
- **Burn all of your firewood when you camp.**
- **Check for quarantine changes before you pack the camper.**
- **Monitor your ash trees at home.**